

The foregoing amendments are intended to more fully claim the present invention, and to place the claims in better condition for examination. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made." In claim 1, the number "1." was inserted before the claim. The word "baffle" was deleted from the preamble of claim 1, to better correlate with the preambles of the dependent claims. In claims 1 and 15, the words "in communication with the tubular opening" have been added after "inlet/outlet port", in order to state a cooperative association of the inlet/outlet port with the other parts of the claimed tee.

In claim 1, the phrases "first rib extending generally longitudinally along said elongated main body portion; and

a second rib extending generally longitudinally along said elongated main body portion" have been deleted, and instead, claim 21 has been added, thus moving these limitations to a dependent claim.

In claim 15, the phrase ", most preferably about 0.090"" was deleted, and instead, claim 22 has been added, which claims a wall thickness of the elongated generally cylindrical main body portion of about 0.090". Claims 19, 20, 23 and 24 have also been added.

The Examiner's favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claim 1 is amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A tee [baffle] comprising:

an elongated generally cylindrical main body portion defining a tubular opening;
a cylindrical uppermost hub coaxial with said elongated main body portion and having an inner diameter greater than said diameter of the elongated main body portion;
an inlet/outlet port in communication with the tubular opening;
[first rib extending generally longitudinally along said elongated main body portion;
and
a second rib extending generally longitudinally along said elongated main body portion].

Claim 2 is amended to depend from new claim 21 instead of claim 1.

Claim 4 is amended as follows:

4. (Amended) The tee of claim 1, [further including] wherein said inlet/outlet port includes an outlet opening and a sweep portion arcing upwardly from said elongated main body portion toward a ring defined by [an] said outlet opening, said sweep portion defining an opening in communication with said tubular opening and said outlet opening.

Claim 5 is amended as follows:

5. (Amended) The tee of claim [3] 1, further comprising at least one horizontal reinforcement

rib on said outer wall of the elongated main body portion.

Claim 7 is amended as follows:

7. (Amended) A tee for use at the inlet or outlet of a septic tank, said tee comprising:

a generally r-shaped first mating half having

an elongated main body portion that is generally U-shaped in cross-section,

a lowermost end integral with said elongated main body portion, [said

lowermost end having a smaller radius than the elongated main body portion,]

a half-ring shaped upper lid-receiving end having a larger radius than a radius
of said elongated main body portion,

a sweeping extension integral with said elongated main body portion and
terminating at a half-ring shaped inlet/outlet,

a first mating edge running lengthwise along said lowermost end, said
elongated main body portion, and said upper lid-receiving end, said first mating edge being
located opposite said sweeping extension,

a second mating edge running along said lowermost end, said elongated main
body portion, an underside of said sweeping extension portion, and a bottom of said half-ring
shaped inlet/outlet,

a third mating edge running along said upper lid-receiving end, an upper side
of said sweeping extension portion, and a top of said half-ring shaped inlet/outlet,

a generally r-shaped second mating half complementing the generally r-shaped first
mating half, said generally r-shaped second mating half having

an elongated main body portion that is generally U-shaped in cross-section,

a lowermost end integral with said elongated main body portion, [said

lowermost end having a smaller radius than the elongated main body portion,]

a half-ring shaped upper lid-receiving end having a larger radius than a radius of said elongated main body portion,

a sweeping extension integral with said elongated main body portion and terminating at a half-ring shaped inlet-outlet,

a fourth mating edge running lengthwise along said lowermost end, said elongated main body portion, and said upper lid-receiving end, said fourth mating edge being located opposite said sweeping extension,

a fifth mating edge running along said lowermost end, said elongated main body portion, an underside of said sweeping extension portion, and a bottom of said half-ring shaped inlet/outlet, and

a sixth mating edge running along said upper lid-receiving end, an upper side of said sweeping extension portion, and a top of said half-ring shaped inlet/outlet.

Claim 10 is amended as follows:

10. (Amended) The [sanitary] tee of claim 7, in combination with an effluent filter having a generally cylindrical profile, said effluent filter having a lid received in [said] the upper lid-receiving ends.

Claim 11 is amended as follows:

11. (Amended) The combination of claim 10, wherein said effluent filter includes a sealing gasket engaged with an inner wall of said lowermost ends of the [sanitary] tee, and wherein said inner wall of the lowermost ends of the [sanitary] tee include elements having locking rims to engage an outermost lip of said sealing gasket.

Claim 15 is amended as follows:

15. (Amended) A one-piece sanitary tee baffle comprising:

an elongated generally cylindrical main body portion defining a tubular opening;
a cylindrical uppermost hub coaxial with said elongated main body portion and having an inner diameter greater than said diameter of the elongated main body portion;
an inlet/outlet port in communication with the tubular opening;
a first rib extending generally longitudinally along said elongated main body portion;
and
a second rib extending generally longitudinally along said elongated main body portion, said elongated generally cylindrical main body portion having a wall thickness between 0.075" and 0.100" over a substantial portion thereof[, most preferably about 0.090"].

The following new claims are added:

- 19. The tee of claim 4, having a lowermost end and a length extending from a top of the uppermost hub to said lowermost end, said outlet opening of the inlet/outlet port being located along said length nearer to said uppermost hub than to said lowermost end.
20. The tee of claim 19, wherein said main body portion houses an effluent filter received in said tubular opening, and said lowermost end extends into a clear zone of a septic tank when the tee is mounted at a septic tank outlet.
21. The tee of claim 1, further comprising a first rib extending generally longitudinally along said elongated main body portion; and
a second rib extending generally longitudinally along said elongated main body

portion.

22. The one-piece sanitary tee baffle of claim 15, wherein the wall thickness of the elongated generally cylindrical main body portion is about 0.090".

23. A tee comprising:

- an elongated generally cylindrical main body portion defining a tubular opening;
- a cylindrical uppermost hub coaxial with said elongated main body portion and having an inner diameter greater than said diameter of the elongated main body portion;
- an inlet/outlet port in communication with the tubular opening;
- an outer wall on said elongated main body portion; and
- at least one horizontal reinforcing rib on said outer wall.

24. The tee of claim 7, wherein said lowermost end of each of the first and second mating halves has a smaller radius than the radius of the elongated main body portion. —